



MARKET HARBOROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary State of  
the District for the Year

1950

BY

**S. P. STOKER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

**B. G. ELLIOTT, M.R.San.I.,**

SANITARY INSPECTOR.





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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the Medical Officer of Health and the  
Sanitary Inspector for 1950.

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GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to present our Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

## STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) ... ..	4,771
Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ...	10,420
Number of inhabited houses ... ..	3,180
Rateable Value ... ..	£67,067
Sum represented by penny rate ... ..	£266

## INDUSTRIES.

No new industries have been started, but those in existence have been fully employed during the year.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male.	Female.	Total
Live Births : Legitimate	78	86	164
Illegitimate	8	2	10
	<hr/> 86	<hr/> 88	<hr/> 174
Still Births : Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 8
Death of infants under 1 year : Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 2
Deaths (all ages)	<hr/> 58	<hr/> 51	<hr/> 109



	1950	1949	England and Wales. 1950
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) :	16.7	18.1	15.8
Still Birth Rate ( „ „ „ ) :	.78	.57	.37
Death Rate ( „ „ „ ) :	10.4	12.2	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate ( „ „ live Births) :	11.5	31.6	29.8

*Population* :—There was a slight decrease of 80 people compared with last year's figures.

*Death Rate* :—The death rate was below that of last year and the average for England and Wales.

*Birth Rate* :—The rate is lower than last year's, but is above the average.

*Infant Mortality Rate* :—This is considerably lower than in the previous year, and the average figure for the whole country.

*Puerperal Fever* :—There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

*Causes of Death* :—The chief causes of death were :

Cancer	...	...	...	20
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	15
Heart Disease	...	...	...	39
Bronchitis	...	...	...	8
Measles	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	4
Motor Accident	...	...	...	1

There were no deaths from any other infectious disease.

### HEALTH SERVICES.

*Laboratory Facilities* :—The following examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service :—

Faeces and Urine	...	...	15
Blood	...	...	2
Sputa	...	...	43
Milk	...	...	51
Water	...	...	8
Ice-cream	...	...	10
Throat and Nose Swabs	...	...	10
Miscellaneous	...	...	7

*Other Health Services* :—

The Day Nursery,  
District Midwifery and Home Nursing,  
Ante-Natal Clinics,  
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic,  
Health Visiting,

Diphtheria Immunisation,  
Ambulance Service and  
Home Help Service

have been under the administration of the County Health Authority for the whole of the year. Under this Authority the local doctors are on call for the Midwifery Service and the Ante-Natal Clinics, and carry out the Diphtheria immunisation. 130 children received primary immunisation and 27 received the "booster" dose.

The Market Harborough and District Hospital and St. Lukes Hospital, under the administration of Leicester No. 1 Hospital Management Committee, were attended by the local doctors. Unfortunately the former was closed for in-patients for five months owing to lack of nursing staff.

*Health Services Officers :—*

- 1 Medical Officer of Health (Part-time).
- 1 Sanitary Inspector (Whole-time).
- 1 Additional Sanitary Inspector (Whole-time).

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

*Water :—*Throughout the year the public piped water supply of the district has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity. Six samples of the treated water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological analysis and all proved to be satisfactory. The water is not liable to be plumbo-solvent.

A copy of the report of the Public Health Laboratory dated 15th December, 1950, regarding the last sample from the town main, is appended :—

"Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C. Nil per 100 ml.

Bacteriologically this sample is satisfactory for domestic purposes."

Public water supplies have been extended during the year by the completion of the work of laying 1½ miles of water main on the Southern Estate.

Terms for the provisional agreement with the owner of Bosworth Hall Estate, the site of the proposed additional works, were settled during the year. A Ministry of Health engineer inspected the site and discussed the proposals, and later an interview with Ministry Officers took place in London. Further developments are now awaited,

The present supply to dwelling-houses in the district is as follows :—

	Houses.	Population.
Number supplied from wells	33	108
Number supplied from public water mains :—		
(a) Direct to the houses	2,959	9,690
(b) By means of stand-pipes	190	622

Eighteen samples of water from private wells, which serve thirty-three houses, were chemically examined for the presence of pollution, and all were satisfactory.

*Drainage and Sewerage* :—There have been no extensions of sewers, new works or improvements during the year. The Council have given directions for certain reconstruction works for sewage disposal to be planned for consideration when conditions allow.

*Closet Accommodation* :—Eighty-eight new water closets have been constructed and five pail closets converted to the water carriage system during the year, bringing the total number of closets now connected to the public sewerage system to approximately 4,497. One privy and one pail closet were abolished. Sixteen premises which are situated at some distance from the nearest sewers are provided with conservancy type sanitary accommodation.

*Public Cleansing* :—Regulation dustbins are provided at all houses and other premises for refuse storage. Constant attention is given to the condition of these bins, and action is taken by the Health Department to ensure their provision or replacement when worn out. As a result of notices sent to owners, 108 new dustbins were provided during the year. S.D. freighter motor vehicles are used to make, as far as possible, a weekly collection of domestic refuse. Approximately 3,360 tons of refuse were received at the Council's Destructor Depot, and of this amount, salvaged material comprised the following :—

	Tons.	Cwts.
Paper ... ..	9	0
Metals ... ..	24	9
Textiles ... ..	16	1
Bottles and Jars ... ..	—	—
Bones ... ..	8	0
	—	—
	57	10
	—	—



The total quantity of refuse dealt with at the Depot was the greatest ever received there in a year, but owing to an unfavourable market the quantity of materials salvaged was smaller than in recent years.

Under the Council's Trade Refuse Scheme, a regular collection of refuse is made from 68 shops. Since 1927 the charge for this service had remained at 10/- a year for one bin a week pro rata, but owing to increased costs, a new charge of 15/- was fixed as from 1st November, 1950.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	391
Defects or nuisances dealt with	...	...	609
Informal Notices served	...	...	287
Statutory Notices served	...	...	0

#### *Inspections :—*

	1st. Visits.	2nd. Visits.
Animal Keeping	22	14
Bakehouses	1	0
Dairies	3	67
Dwelling Houses	399	342
Factories, etc.	33	35
Food Premises	108	153
Offensive Trades	3	22
Rats and Mice Destruction	3,455	1,891
Shops	9	4
Slaughter House and Meat Inspection	1	359
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	13	10
Verminous Premises	116	61
Water Supplies	19	7
Other Premises	111	136
	<hr/> 4,293 <hr/>	<hr/> 3,101 <hr/>

#### *Factories, etc. :—*

Sanitary accommodation provided or improved	...	4
Drainage and other defects remedied	...	3
Fire escapes provided, altered, or repaired	...	8
Certificates issued in respect of means of escape in case of fire	...	4

#### *Shops :—*

Sanitary conveniences, drainage and other defects rectified	...	2
---	-----	---



*Miscellaneous Nuisances :—*

Drains and sanitary fittings tested	...	...	...	7
Drains repaired or unstopped	...	...	...	4
Noxious effluvia abated	...	...	...	4
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	26
Dangerous structures made safe or demolished	...	...	...	3
Obstructed ditch cleared	...	...	...	1
Animal keeping—defects remedied	...	...	...	2
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	5

*Smoke Abatement :—*

Complaints of smoke nuisances investigated	...	...	6
Observations of chimney emissions recorded	...	...	13
Visits to boiler, etc., plants	...	...	10
Nuisances abated	...	...	2

In one instance a new type of furnace has been installed with satisfactory results, and in the other improved firing methods provided the remedy.

*Public Mortuary :—*

The King's Road building, which was originally constructed for use as a mortuary, is owned and equipped by the Council, and was used on six occasions during the year. The premises are kept in a cleanly and hygienic condition by the Disinfecting Officer.

*Disinfection and Disinfestation :—*

Infected rooms fumigated	...	...	...	...	86
Verminous rooms treated	...	...	...	...	141
Articles of bedding, clothing, etc. :—					
Steam disinfected	...	...	...	...	108
Destroyed	...	...	...	...	191
Other articles disinfected, etc.	...	...	...	...	46

*Number of instances of bug infestation :—*

Council Houses	...	...	...	...	0
Other Houses	...	...	...	...	0

*Other infestations of domestic pests treated :—*

Ants	...	...	...	...	38
Crickets	...	...	...	...	6
Flies	...	...	...	...	5
Wasps	...	...	...	...	11
Wood boring insects	...	...	...	...	46
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	10

*Rodent Control :—*

The good work of previous years has been maintained in the routine inspection of all properties during the year by the Rodent Officer, whose services have been in even greater demand than before. Many industrial firms have requested the regular supervision of their premises. Although certain trades are particularly attractive to rodents, and incidentally have accounted for a large proportion of the numbers killed, the district as a whole has shown a marked improvement as a result of the successful efforts to cope with this problem in recent years. The resulting benefits are reflected in a large scale reduction of contamination and destruction of foodstuffs and damage to property and equipment, coupled with the important factor of safeguarding the health of the inhabitants.

The sewerage system, comprising 372 manholes, again received a complete treatment, and for the second year in succession there were no takes of pre-bait in any of the manholes.

The following is a brief summary of the work carried out during the year :—

Premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,455
Repeat visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,891
Infestations dealt with :—Rats 203, Mice 46	...	...	...	...	...	...	249
(1) At Council properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
(2) At private dwellings (free of charge)	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
(3) At business premises (occupiers charged)	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Estimated number of rats killed (Ministry Formula)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,816
Dead bodies recovered :—Rats 553, Mice 490	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,043

*Special Classes of Premises and Occupations subject to Control :—*

Written Consent to establishment of trade of Rag and Bone Dealer renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Written Consent to establishment of trade of Fat Extractor, Fat Melter and Glue Maker in operation	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

At the latter premises, large quantities of raw material were stored in unsuitable conditions during certain periods of the year. The co-operation of the firm was sought with a view to making more satisfactory arrangements if the necessity for storage recurs.

With this exception and two minor matters, the trades were conducted in a satisfactory manner, often under difficult circumstances. Twenty-five visits of inspection were made during the year.

*Storage of Petroleum Spirit :—*

Number of Licences issued	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Licences renewed	...	...	...	...	34
Number of Licences transferred	...	...	...	...	0
Number of contraventions rectified	...	...	...	...	5

No licences have been issued for the storage of Carbide of Calcium.

*Swimming Bath :—*

There is one swimming bath in the area. This is owned by the Council and consists of a well equipped indoor pool, which is open during the Summer, and was again well patronised by the general public, Schools and other organisations. The purity of the water is assured by continuous filtration and chlorination by a Paterson gas system. Frequent tests were made for chlorine content and a sample taken at the busiest season gave a sterile result.

*Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings :—*

Number of camping sites for which licences have been issued	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of licences issued for moveable dwellings under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Informal action was taken regarding three instances of moveable dwellings which did not comply with public health requirements. As a result, the dwellings were removed.

*Canal Boats :—*

The first Festival and Rally of Boats, arranged by the Inland Waterways Association, was held along a section of the canal during 19th to 24th August, 1950. Special provision was made for the public health requirements of the occupants of a large number of boats, a trailer caravan site and some thousands of visitors. Temporary sanitary conveniences were erected in convenient positions, bins for refuse and waste water were sited at short intervals, and a piped water supply was extended to suitable points. The frequent servicing of the chemical toilets and bins was efficiently carried out and aided by the use of Racasan Sanitary Fluid, greatly assisted in maintaining a high hygienic standard.



## HOUSING.

During the year, thirty-one houses have been erected, as follows :—

	Council.	Private Enterprise.
Pre-fabricated—temporary ... ..	0	0
Pre-fabricated—permanent ... ..	0	0
Permanent construction ... ..	22	9

The total number of Post-War Houses completed is 214.

In addition, two houses were converted into four flats.

At the close of the year, sixty-nine permanent houses were in course of construction, *viz.* sixty-five by the Council and four by private enterprise.

Preparations for the official opening of the first pair of Council houses on the new Southern Estate are nearing completion. This Estate will eventually provide for about 700 Council and privately erected houses.

The list of applicants for Council houses has been completely revised and now comprises a total of 402 applicants, approximately half of whom are living in rooms.

A commencement has been made to deal with unfit houses, and advantage has been taken in two instances where the houses have been vacated owing to the removal of the tenants to Council houses. Consequently one unfit house has been closed by the owner, preparatory to demolition, and another house has ceased to be used for habitation in readiness for conversion for business purposes.

The following items of repair have been carried out at dwelling houses as a result of informal notices :—

General structural repairs effected ... ..	34
Drains and sanitary fittings repaired and new provided	58
Cleansing and other defects remedied ... ..	19
Licences renewed under Defence Regulation 68AA ...	2

1.—*Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	137
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	241



(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ..	0	
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	0	
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	0	
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	48	
2.— <i>Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.</i>				
		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	37	
3.— <i>Action under Statutory Powers</i> ... ..				0
4.— <i>Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.</i>				
(1)	(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... ..	30	
	(b)	Number of families dwelling therein ...	45	
	(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	227	
(2)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	12	
(3)	(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	10	
	(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	88	
(4)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	0	
(5)		Number of cases where sleeping accommodation is inadequate, although the houses are not legally overcrowded ... ..	120	

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

*Milk Supply :—*

Trade.	No. on Register
Distributors of Milk ... ..	3
Dairies (not being Dairy Farms) ...	3

The following Licences have been issued :—

(1) Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 :

(a) Dealers Licences : Pasteurised ...	1
Sterilised ...	1

(b) Supplementary Licences : ... .. 0

(2) Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 :

(a) Dealers Licences : Tuberculin Tested 3

(b) Supplementary Licences : ... .. 0

*Milk Sampling :—*

Grade.	Number of Samples for bacteriological examination.	Number Satisfactory.	Number Unsatisfactory
“Tuberculin Tested” ...	9	7	2
“Accredited” ...	2	2	—
“Pasteurised” ...	9	9	—
“Sterilised” ...	—	—	—
Ungraded ...	6	4	2
	—	—	—
	26	22	4
	—	—	—

With regard to the four unsatisfactory reports, the retailers concerned were notified of the results of the samples and their co-operation sought in effecting an improvement. Subsequent samples of two T.T. supplies and one ungraded milk proved satisfactory. The remaining ungraded milk will be re-sampled at the first opportunity.

*Biological Milk Sampling :—*

The following samples were collected under the Leicestershire County Council Scheme :—

Number of samples taken	Number satisfactory	Number showing evidence of living Tubercle Bacilli
15	13	2

In the case of one of the two adverse reports, immediate arrangements were made for the milk to be pasteurised until the herd had been declared free from infection by the Divisional Veterinary Officer. In the other instance, the milk from this herd was already being pasteurised before sale, and as a result of the Divisional Veterinary Officer's examinations, one cow was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, and was subsequently condemned as unfit for food for human consumption.

Seventy visits of inspection were made to premises where milk is stored, treated or sold, including transport and distribution of milk. On the whole, a high standard was maintained. One structural defect was rectified and one instance of insufficient cleansing of churns was investigated. Also advice was given regarding the need for altering and enlarging a dairy in order to cope with increased trade and effect certain structural improvements.

*Ice Cream :—*

Trade.				Number of Premises Registered.	
Manufacture and retail	...	...	...	2	
Manufacture only	...	...	...	1	
Retail only	...	...	...	16	
Certificates of Registration issued			...	3	

The reports of samples of ice cream submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue Test are appended together with those of the previous three years for comparison purposes :—

			1947	1948	1949	1950
Grade 1	...	...	12	19	10	9
Grade 2	...	...	2	12	5	2
Grade 3	...	...	2	5	2	0
Grade 4	...	...	5	0	0	1
			—	—	—	—
			21	36	17	12
			—	—	—	—

The Grade IV sample was found to be due to inadequate cleansing and sterilising of a remote part of the manufacturing equipment. This omission was remedied, and two later samples were both Grade I.

Thirty-three inspections of premises and vehicles were made, and every opportunity was taken of giving advice and securing the co-operation of traders in maintaining a high standard. One contravention was rectified.

*Meat and other Foods :—*

Centralised slaughtering under the control of the Ministry of Food has continued throughout the year in the Council's Abattoir, Springfield Street. During the year under review, the number of animals slaughtered totalled 8,173, representing an increase of 1,271 over the previous year. The routine inspection of all carcasses and offals necessitated 360 visits to these premises and entailed many hours outside normal office hours. The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to 25 tons 2 cwts. 2 lbs. for which 201 certificates were issued.

One Licence to Slaughter was renewed and two contraventions under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, were dealt with.

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ... ..	1,355	669	715	5,152	282
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	12	6	15	101	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	397	259	5	198	37
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	30.2	39.7	2.8	5.8	15.6
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	6	21	2	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned . ... ..	137	140	1	—	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	10.5	24.0	0.4	—	3.9



Three requests from consumers and sixty-six from food traders to inspect doubtful or damaged foodstuffs were received and complied with. The total quantity of miscellaneous articles of food found to be unfit for human consumption amounted to 2,136 lbs. 4 ozs. and necessitated the issue of 156 condemn certificates.

During the year periodic visits to food premises have been made as occasion required and for the purpose of ascertaining the conditions under which food is prepared and sold, and the attention of traders has been drawn to matters needing improvement.

*Defects remedied at food premises :—*

Structural and drainage defects remedied	...	9
Construction of meat delivery van improved	...	1
Cleansing carried out	... ..	3
Insect pests treated	... ..	1
Refuse removed	... ..	2
Other defects remedied	... ..	3

*Model Byelaws Series I (Ministry of Food).*

A Sub-Committee has considered in detail the Model Byelaws with regard to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open-air, and their special application to this Urban District. Subsequently, the Model Byelaws without variation were adopted by the Council in October and confirmed by the Ministry of Food in December, and will come into operation on 15th January, 1951. At the close of the year preparations were being made to bring to the notice of all persons engaged in the food trades the provisions of the new Byelaws.

The Food and Drink Infections Conference, arranged by the Central Council for Health Education and held at Olympia on 31st August, 1950, was attended by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

*Notifications :—*

Scarlet Fever	...	...	30	Whooping Cough	...	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			1	Puerperal Fever	...	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis			1	Puerperal Pyrexia	...	0
Lobar Pneumonia	...		1	Erysipelas	...	0
Measles	...	...	260	Diphtheria	...	0

*Tuberculosis :—*

				Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
New Cases :—					
Male	...	...	...	5	2
Female	...	...	...	1	—
				—	—
				6	2
				—	—

## Deaths :

Male	...	...	...	3	1
Female	...	...	...	—	—
				—	—
				3	1
				—	—

Yours faithfully,

S. P. STOKER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

B. G. ELLIOTT,

*Sanitary Inspector.*



